

<p>SEVEN GENERATIONS CHARTER SCHOOL</p>	<p>SECTION: COMMUNITY</p> <p>TITLE: 903 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>ADOPTED: February 2, 2010</p> <p>REVISED:</p>
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<p>Policy</p>	<p>The Seven Generations Charter School’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings.</p> <p>The Board recognizes and cherishes both the spirit of democracy and the value of public participation in its deliberations, while simultaneously recognizing its responsibility to the school to deliver decisions in an orderly and timely fashion, as well as the exceptional level of commitment and responsibility that the Board members bring to the overall project of governance of the school.</p>
<p>Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The facilitator at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings.</p>
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>In order to achieve an appropriate balance between its commitments to democracy and efficiency during its meetings, the structure for public participation will be as follows:</p> <p>A. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board will continue to provide a period specifically for public participation at every public meeting of the Board. Members of the audience (“public”) will be allowed a comment period after the adoption of agenda items and at the close of official business. Public comment may be on any topic related to the operation of Seven Generations Charter School (“SGCS”). The Board asks that in the case of a person making a public comment, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individuals making comments must state their name, place of residence and identify the topic they wish to address. 2. Time allotted to an individual or party/representative of a group to address the Board is limited to three minutes to allow opportunity for all those who wish to address the Board. However, additional written information may also be presented and considered by the Board. 3. Board members and administrators may respond to public comment during the comment period briefly but it may be more appropriate for the Board to designate a committee or an administrator to maintain contact with the individual or group to address the comment at a later time.

	<p>B. In addition, the Board welcomes open participation from the public during Board meetings. Specifically, this means that the public can and are encouraged to participate in a discussion that is occurring outside of the designated times for public participation. Every attendee of a Board meeting, including both the Board and the public, participates in all deliberations with the following two exceptions: 1) the call for consensus -- then only the Board members participate. 2) The "Board fishbowl," during which only Board members can participate.</p> <p>C. Once the allotted time for a given agenda item has expired, any Board member can request a Board fishbowl of the facilitator, without deliberation, at which point the facilitator only recognizes Board members' participation. The Board fishbowl concludes with either A.) the decision to return to the proposal at another meeting or B.) the reintroduction of public participation for a length of time consented upon by the board during the fishbowl. The call for consensus about the proposal under consideration cannot be made before this reintroduction of public participation.</p> <p>The Board fishbowl option should be used sparingly only in the event that, in the opinion of at least one Board member, full public participation in a given deliberation is standing in the way of efficient and purposeful progress.</p> <p><i>The Board may choose to waive, by consensus vote, any of the above regulations at a particular time in order to receive adequate information, or allow for clarification on a topic/issue. In determining the length of this extension, the Board shall take into consideration the length and complexity of the agenda, the normal and usual length of meetings, the probable length of the current meeting, the availability of Board members, the hour of the day, the number of proposed participants and other factors relevant to the conduct of an orderly meeting.</i></p>
References	Sunshine Act – 65 P.S. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.